

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 with the following paragraph:

--This application is a division of allowed Application No. 08/943,019, filed October 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,297,008.--

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 47 with the following paragraph:

--Accordingly, when such a pyrylium compound represented by the formula [1] is intercalated into a double-stranded nucleic acid in an aqueous medium, such as water, an aqueous buffered solution (a phosphate buffered solution, a Tris buffered solution etc.) in the presence of a luminescence-inducing reagent, only the pyrylium compound intercalated into the double-stranded nucleic acid can exhibit chemiluminescence. Such a system is extremely effective in achieving highly sensitive and simple detection of target nucleic acids and precise quantification of the same.--